

Title "**Immune Responses to Commensal Bacteria: The Illusion of Free Will**"

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Abstract

The immune mechanisms controlling the interaction with resident gut microbes are poorly understood. We examined the immune responses to an epithelial-associated bacterium, segmented filamentous bacteria (SFB). In my seminar I will describe our most recent findings to demonstrate how this interaction differs from conventional responses to pathogens and commensals. In addition, we show that the cellular immune mechanisms directing this interaction are unusual and conceptually different from pathogen-induced antigen-specific responses. Investigation of immune responses to resident commensal bacteria may reveal new basic mechanisms of immune activation.